

STARS AND STRIPES

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

Powell shows Iraq evidence to U.N.

BY BARRY SCHWEID

The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — Secretary of State Colin Powell, methodically making his case that Iraq has defied all demands that it disarm, presented tape recordings, satellite photos and informants' statements Wednesday that he said constituted "irrefutable and undeniable" evidence that Saddam Hussein is concealing weapons of mass destruction.

"Clearly, Saddam will stop at nothing until something stops him," Powell told a skeptical U.N. Security Council, saying Baghdad's denials represent a "web of lies."

Three months after Iraq pledged that it would disarm, Powell presented his evidence in an appearance that was televised live around the world. The Council members — joined by Iraq's U.N. ambassador

— sat around a large circular table with Powell and listened attentively.

Of the 15 Council members, only the United States and Britain have voiced support for forcibly disarming Saddam, but the Bush administration is counting on Spain and Bulgaria, among others, to be part of any coalition against Iraq.

Powell's remarks did not seem to sway the other three veto-holding members of the Council.

Representatives of China, Russia and France all said after Powell's presentation that the work of the weapons inspectors should continue — with the French calling for the number of inspectors to be tripled and the process strengthened.

Coming to Powell's defense, British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said the secretary made a "most powerful" case. Saddam is "gambling that we will lose our nerve rather than enforce our will," Straw said.

In a more than hour-long presentation, Powell also detailed the U.S. claims that Baghdad and al-Qaida operatives are working together and that some followers of a senior associate of Osama bin Laden are currently in the Iraqi capital, with the approval of Saddam.

Saddam, in an interview broadcast Tuesday in London, denied his government has a relationship with the al-Qaida or has weapons of mass destruction. He said it would be impossible to hide such arms.

In his presentation, Powell:

- Asserted that Iraq "bulldozed and graded to conceal chemical weapons evidence" at the Al Musayyib chemical complex in 2002 and had a series of cargo vehicles and a decontamination vehicle moving around at the site. Powell said that was corroborated by a human source.

See **POWELL** on Page 2

Design finalists for trade center are world's tallest

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The world's tallest building would soar over the New York skyline under two design proposals selected as finalists in the competition to rebuild the World Trade Center site.

Both the plan from Berlin-based architect Daniel Libeskind and THINK, an international team of design firms, would build structures rising higher than Malaysia's 1,483-foot Petronas Twin Towers, the world's tallest buildings.

The final selection will be made at the end of the month.

"What we're doing today is advancing two extraordinary designs," said Roland Betts, head of the redevelopment planning committee.

Neither plan is "set in stone," he said, but officials will try to retain the main concepts in the final plan.

Finalists selected Tuesday were praised for giving respect to a memorial for the nearly 2,800 victims of the Sept.



Photos by LMDC

Left: Architect Daniel Libeskind's proposed design for the rebuilding of New York's World Trade Center. Right: THINK's proposal. Libeskind's and THINK's designs were selected Tuesday as the finalists in the plan to rebuild Ground Zero.

11 terrorist attack at the trade center.

"The memorial site drives the design," said Beverly Willis, founder of the community group Rebuild Downtown Our Town and president of the Architecture Research Institute.

But she called the aim to build the world's tallest towers "ostentatious

[and] impractical"

The height of the buildings has been an issue. While many New Yorkers have called for soaring structures that would replace the twin towers, a recent New York Times/CBS poll found 53 percent of New Yorkers unwilling to work in one of the higher floors at the site.

Powell

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■ Said Iraq is working on developing missiles with a range of 1,000 kilometers — about 620 miles — or more, putting Russia and other nations beyond Iraq's immediate neighbors in potential danger.

■ Played audio tapes of what Powell said were intercepted phone conversations between Iraqi military officers. One was a purported discussion about hiding prohibited vehicles from weapons inspectors. Another dealt with removing a reference to nerve agents from written instructions.

■ Cited informants as saying that Iraqis are dispersing rockets armed with biological weapons in western Iraq.

■ Presented declassified satellite pictures that he said were 15 munitions bunkers. Powell said four of them had active chemical munitions inside.

■ Said Iraqi informants claim that Iraq has 18 trucks that it uses as mobile biological weapons labs.

Powell presented his case in a rapid-fire delivery, moving from tape recordings to photos and other evidence without pause.

He said his case was persuasive that Iraq is hiding its chemical, biological and nuclear weapons programs and missile activity and was deliberately misleading inspectors. "I believe this conclusion is irrefutable and undeniable," he said.

"The issue before us is not how much time we are willing to give the inspectors to be frustrated by Iraqi obstruction, but how much longer are we willing to put up with Iraq's noncompliance before we as a Council, we as the United Nations, say: 'Enough. Enough.'"

Most U.S. allies, including France and Germany, want more time for U.N. weapons inspectors to do their work in Iraq. But Bush and his top national security aides have said repeatedly that the United States — with or without its allies — will forcibly disarm Iraq if it does not immediately comply with U.N. resolutions requiring it to rid itself of chemical, biological or nuclear weapons.

To read Powell's complete speech, go to our Web site: www.stripes.com

Correction

A story in Tuesday's editions about an award offered for information on the shooting of a U.S. soldier in Germany misstated the dollar amount of the award. It is \$5,457.

News tracker: What's new with old news

Military

RAF controller: The American pilots killed two years ago in twin crashes in the Scottish Highlands ignored a "sensible and pragmatic" alternate route suggested by an air traffic controller, according to testimony Monday in the trial of the Royal Air Force controller.

Group Commander James Stenson, of Strike Command at RAF High Wycombe, said the alternate route appeared not to fit with the plans of the two U.S. pilots, according to a news report in Tuesday's Times of London.

Flight Lt. Malcolm Williams, 47, an air traffic controller at RAF Leuchars, is on trial for his role in the deaths of the two pilots on March 26, 2001. Lt. Col. Kenneth Hyvonen and Capt. Kirk Jones of the 48th Fighter Wing at RAF Lakenheath, England, were killed when their F-15C jets slammed into a mountain during a snowstorm while attempting to do low-level training in Scotland.

Stenson testified that Williams had told the pilots to fly over the sea and then go low level inland at Montrose on the east coast of Scotland to avoid a severe snowstorm, according to the newspaper's account.

"To me, this is indicative of an experienced controller offering a sensible and pragmatic alternative solution to [the pilots]," Stenson was quoted saying.

Rumsfeld defends Franks: Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on Tuesday defended his strong support for his Middle East commander, Army Gen. Tommy Franks, who's under investigation by the Pentagon inspector general.

Rumsfeld added that he hasn't prejudged the results of the ongoing inquiry.

Officials with the office of the Defense Department's inspector general have been investigating since late last summer several allegations that Franks may have abused his office by improperly extending to his wife some of the perquisites of his office. They also have been investigating whether he may have violated security regulations by permitting her to listen to highly classified briefings.

The inspector general tentatively has concluded that there's evidence to support some of those allegations, Defense sources said Monday.

War on terrorism

Kuwaiti can't remember: A Kuwaiti policeman accused of shooting and seriously wounding two U.S. Army soldiers said at Wednesday's trial opening that he doesn't remember doing so and is psychologically ill. His lawyer entered an insanity plea on his behalf.

The Nov. 21 shootings happened after Khaled al-Shimiri, 20, allegedly stopped the car of the two soldiers, both from Lake Charles, La., on a highway and told them they were speeding.

He said he had been receiving treatment for psychological problems in Kuwait and Jordan.

Al-Shimiri also indicated he had no motive to shoot Master Sgt. Larry Thomas, 51, and Sgt. Charles Ellis, 27.

Al-Shimiri's lawyer, Nawwaf al-Mutairi, entered an insanity plea on his client's behalf and told reporters later that al-Shimiri had no links to terrorist groups.

Turkey to vote: Parliament votes Thursday on authorizing the United States to renovate Turkish military bases, but will hold off for more than a week on whether to allow U.S. combat troops to enter the country for a possible attack on neighboring Iraq.

Prime Minister Abdullah Gul briefed the Cabinet on Wednesday and a legislator from his Justice and Development Party said a vote authorizing base renovations would come Thursday afternoon. A vote on allowing in U.S. troops, which the party will also back, would come Feb. 18, the legislator said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Gul's party has a strong majority in parliament.

Guard and Reserve activation: More than 110,000 National Guard and reserve forces are now serving around the nation and overseas as the United States continues its buildup for a possible war with Iraq.

In its weekly accounting of those called to active duty, the Pentagon said Wednesday that the number mobilized has jumped by some 17,000 in the past week, the third consecutive large weekly increase and second largest since the September 2001 terrorist attacks on America.

That brings the total now serving to 111,600, said Lt. Col. Dan Stoneking, a Pentagon spokesman.

Maximum penalty sought in terror trial: Federal prosecutors in Hamburg, Germany, demanded 15 years in prison Wednesday for a Moroccan student charged in the Sept. 11 terror attacks, saying the defendant had willingly participated in a crime of unimaginable magnitude as a member of the Hamburg-based group of terrorists that included three of the suicide hijackers.

Prosecutor Walter Hemberger demanded the maximum sentence for Mounir el Motassadeq, which under German law is tantamount to life in prison, and

told the defendant he would be better off admitting his crimes.

El Motassadeq, the first suspect to go on trial anywhere in the world in the terror plot that brought down the World Trade Center and crashed planes into the Pentagon and rural Pennsylvania, is charged with more than 3,000 counts of being an accessory to murder and membership in a terror organization.

States

Brian Regan's espionage trial: Spy suspect Brian Patrick Regan looked at documents that could help Iraq shoot down U.S. pilots, according to two witnesses testifying in the retired Air Force master sergeant's spy trial in Alexandria, Va.

Air Force Maj. Gen. David Deptula and Dennis Fitzgerald, deputy director of the National Reconnaissance Office, told jurors Tuesday that Regan viewed satellite photos of missile sites, confidential reports of Iraqi weaponry and a classified defense manual. All could help President Saddam Hussein's military hide its weapons and threaten U.S. and British pilots who patrol no-fly zones over Iraq, they said.

Under cross-examination, both men said they did not know whether Regan had given any documents to foreign governments.

Regan, 40, of Bowie, Md., is accused of offering to sell confidential documents to Iraq, Libya and China for \$13 million in Swiss francs. He has pleaded innocent.

More cruise infections: An outbreak of viral infections similar to those that hit cruise ships in the Caribbean and Alaska cut short a Hawaiian cruise Tuesday after nearly 300 passengers and crewmembers became sick.

Ten days into the 15-day voyage from Los Angeles to four Hawaiian islands, Princess Cruises diverted the Sun Princess to Honolulu so nearly 2,000 passengers could take flights home.

About 100 passengers, about half of whom were sick, stayed with the ship as it left Tuesday for Los Angeles, Princess Cruises spokesman Tom Dow said. He noted that the cruise appeals to some people who are wary of air travel.

Most people who contracted the Norwalk or Norwalk-like virus recovered before the end of the voyage, cruise officials said.

Virus strikes Ariz. chickens: The governor declared a state of emergency Tuesday after a deadly bird virus was found in chickens at an Indian reservation in Arizona.

The state Department of Agriculture was expected Wednesday to quarantine Yuma County, La Paz County and part of Mohave County south of the Grand Canyon, said Lori Faeth, natural resources adviser to Gov. Janet Napolitano.

A USDA lab announced that the birds had contracted Exotic Newcastle Disease, which has led to the slaughter of 1.7 million chickens in Southern California and about 1,600 birds in Nevada.

The disease is highly contagious among poultry and birds but poses no health risks for humans.

World

Thailand tentatively reopens border: Thailand said Wednesday it will partially reopen its border with Cambodia, closed since last week when anti-Thai riots in the Cambodian capital plunged relations between the two countries to their lowest level in decades.

Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said the border would be reopened Thursday for trade only, in a humanitarian move to help Cambodians suffering from a lack of essential goods and services.

Beer tax doused: Belgian beer makers Wednesday welcomed assurances from the French government that it would drop a new tax on strong beers that threatened exports of their famed specialty brews.

"It's a fine victory for Belgian brewing culture," Philippe Henroz, marketing director of Chimay Trappist ales, told the daily Le Soir.

Belgian Finance Minister Didier Reynders met his French counterpart Francis Mer in Paris on Tuesday to discuss a dispute that has made headlines in a country where strong beers form a crucial part of culinary culture — and an important export.

France sends more troops to Ivory Coast: France announced Wednesday it was sending 450 more troops to troubled Ivory Coast, as up to 10,000 Ivorian loyalists massed outside France's embassy in the latest of two weeks of protests to a Paris-brokered peace accord.

The United States sent a small military contingent as well Wednesday — with about 20 Westerners in bullet-proof vests and a mix of uniforms and civilian clothes arriving at Abidjan's international airport in a U.S. Air Force transport plane.

A U.S. Embassy official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the men were a "military advisory team ... in Abidjan to monitor the situation with us." The official refused further comment.

From wire and staff services

Iraq denounces U.S. 'stunts'

BY CHARLES J. HANLEY
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraqi officials on Wednesday dismissed Secretary of State Colin Powell's anti-Iraq case before the U.N. Security Council as a collection of "stunts," "special effects" and "unknown sources" aimed at undermining the work of U.N. arms inspectors in Iraq.

"What we heard today was for the general public and mainly the uninformed, in order to influence their opinion and to commit the aggression on Iraq," Lt. Gen. Amir al-Saadi, a presidential adviser, told reporters.

Al-Saadi suggested that monitored Iraqi conversations played by Powell were fabricated, that defector informants were unreliable, and that satellite photographs Powell displayed "proved nothing."

He noted that similar earlier photos were checked by U.N. teams who found allegations of suspicious activities to be unfounded.

Al-Saadi and Maj. Gen. Hosam Mohamed Amin, chief liaison to the U.N. arms inspec-

tors, appeared in a government conference room teeming with hundreds of journalists, Iraqi officials and visiting European Parliament members, who closely followed Powell's 75-minute address on live satellite television.

Powell's New York appearance was not broadcast on Iraqi TV, which instead aired an interview President Saddam Hussein gave to former leftwing British lawmaker Tony Benn.

The U.S. secretary's presentation cited several examples of allegedly suspicious activities by the Iraqis, without noting that such locations are now under regular monitoring by U.N. inspectors.

One example was a missile-engine test installation where U.S. analysts said last year a new structure might test engines that break a U.N. limit on missile range.

Powell said "a roof" now blocks U.S. satellite photos. But he didn't point out that U.N. inspectors visit the facility regularly, looking under any roofs.

Saadi described Powell's approach as "a deliberate attempt to undermine the credi-

bility and professionalism of the inspection bodies ... by making allegations which directly contradict their assessments or cast doubt on their credibility."

A key focus of the U.S. secretary's allegations — that Iraq has mobile biological-weapons labs — had been raised by Washington before, and rejected by Amin as "totally unfounded."

On Jan. 18, U.N. inspectors examined two Iraqi mobile food laboratories at a Trade Ministry site. Chief inspector Hans Blix later said they were determined not to be connected with weapons-making.

He called on Washington to provide any solid information they have on such labs.

Al-Saadi took up that theme, accusing Washington of itself violating U.N. Security Council Resolution 1441 by not providing intelligence data linked to its allegations, as requested in the resolution.

Amin had predicted the Powell material would be largely "lies or fabrications" that Iraqi officials would be able to refute "if we were given the opportunity to see those evidences in detail."

Powell's words don't sway many leaders

The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — France proposed strengthening weapons inspections in Iraq, including tripling the number of inspectors and placing a full-time monitor in Baghdad to oversee the process, after hearing Secretary of State Colin Powell's presentation Wednesday on Iraq's failure to disarm.

"The use of force can only be a final recourse," French foreign minister Dominique de Villepin said. "We must move on to a new stage and further strengthen the inspections."

De Villepin said France would carefully review the evidence provided by Powell, but that inspections were working and had resulted in major achievements.

Still, he acknowledged there was more Iraq could do to cooperate with a beefed up inspections regime to avert war.

"Given the choice between military intervention and an inspections regime which is inadequate because of a failure to operate on Iraq's part, we must choose the decisive reinforcement of the means of inspection. This is today what France is proposing," he said.

France has been the leading opponent of using military force in Iraq now and has suggested it could veto a resolution that could lead to war.

De Villepin and other foreign ministers spoke from remarks prepared before Powell's presentation.

Powell's presentation didn't immediately appear to change opinions.

Both Russia and Chile said Iraq must provide inspectors with answers to questions Powell raised in his presentation.

Jack Straw of Britain, America's closest ally, stood firmly behind the United States.

China, a powerful Security Council member, and Spain also came out in support of continued inspections.

Cameroon called for continued inspections and suggested that Secretary-General Kofi Annan visit Baghdad.

Tapes capture Iraqi talk of 'modified vehicles'

The Associated Press

The following is a partial transcript of Powell's speech. This portion relays the contents of a taped conversation between two Iraqi officials:

POWELL: Let me begin by playing a tape for you. What you're about to hear is a conversation that my government monitored. It takes place on Nov. 26 of last year, on the day before United Nations teams resumed inspections in Iraq.

The conversation involves two senior officers, a colonel and a brigadier general, from Iraq's elite military unit, the Republican Guard.

(Powell plays the recording of two men speaking in Arabic.)

POWELL: Let me pause and review some of the key el-

ements of this conversation that you just heard between these two officers.

First, they acknowledge that our colleague, Mohamed ElBaradei, is coming, and they know what he's coming for, and they know he's coming the next day. He's coming to look for things that are prohibited. He is expecting these gentlemen to cooperate with him and not hide things.

But they're worried. "We have this modified vehicle. What do we say if one of them sees it?"

What is their concern? Their concern is that it's something they should not have, something that should not be seen.

The general is incredulous: "You didn't get a modified. You don't have one of those, do you?"

"I have one."

"Which, from where?"

"From the workshop, from the al-Kindi company?"

"What?"

"From al-Kindi."

"I'll come to see you in the morning. I'm worried. You all have something left."

"We evacuated everything. We don't have anything left."

Note what he says: "We evacuated everything." We didn't destroy it. We didn't line it up for inspection. We didn't turn it into the inspectors. We evacuated it to make sure it was not around when the inspectors showed up.

"I will come to you tomorrow."

The al-Kindi company: This is a company that is well known to have been involved in prohibited weapons systems activity.

Columbia debris may be in California

The Associated Press

HEMPHILL, Texas — NASA sent a team to California to inspect material that may be part of space shuttle Columbia's wing, while searchers scouring an eastern Texas pond discovered what is believed to be a wing fragment.

Possible debris found far west of Texas, where Columbia was seen breaking up, could shed light on the earliest stages of the disaster that left the shuttle's seven astronauts dead, officials said.

Michael Kostelnik, a NASA spaceflight office deputy, cautioned that the space agency has not determined whether the material found in California is from Columbia's wing — or even from the shuttle at all.

"Debris early in the flight path would be critical because that material would obviously be near the start of the events" that unfolded during the shuttle's west-to-east trip across the country, Kostelnik said.

Shuttle fragments and body parts continued to turn up in Texas and Louisiana on Tuesday. And after days of warning people to stay away from debris, law enforcement officials said they may start taking some action against looters.

The search for debris up to now has been concentrated from central Texas into central Louisiana. A NASA radar map indicates that is the heaviest debris field.

On Tuesday, a 6- to 7-foot section of what authorities believe to be a shuttle wing fragment was recovered from a pond in Texas, Nacogdoches County Sheriff Thomas Keress said.

One of the biggest and most recognizable pieces of Columbia — the nose cone — was discovered drilled into the ground in a deep thicket near Hemphill by two men who were scouring their land for debris.

Old report warned damage to tiles may destroy shuttle

BY PAUL RECER

The Associated Press

SPACE CENTER, Houston — A technical report warned at least nine years ago that the space shuttle could be destroyed if tiles protecting critical wing parts were damaged by debris, but NASA engineers never found a complete solution for the safety soft spot.

Now the failure of the tiles is a leading theory for the catastrophic end of Columbia.

NASA struggled for years in trying to ensure that the tiles were firmly attached to the shuttle, Paul Fischbeck, an engineering professor at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, said in his analysis.

He said Tuesday that NASA engineers "took a lot of our advice to heart" and made changes to lower the risk of debris hitting the tiles during launch. But the problems were never completely solved, he said.

A patch of foam insulation

breaking off from the shuttle's external fuel tank during launch and striking tiles on the underside of the left wing is being studied as the possible cause of Columbia's destruction Saturday, which left all seven astronauts dead.

"There are very important tiles under there. If you lose the tiles on those stretches ... it can cause the shuttle to be lost," Fischbeck said.

A NASA spokesman said Tuesday that nobody was available to comment on the report.

Meanwhile, the search for bits and pieces of the shattered Columbia was expanded westward to California and Arizona, where teams are checking reports of debris. That material could provide clues to the earliest stages of Columbia's disintegration.

Investigators also are examining military photos taken from an Apache helicopter of Columbia's final fiery descent.

Fischbeck and his colleagues made an initial report

to NASA on their findings in 1990, and they published a follow-up paper on the research in 1994.

They conducted a risk analysis of the shuttle's thermal protection tile system and found that the spacecraft was highly vulnerable to tiles being knocked off or broken by insulation falling from the fuel tank and from other debris.

In a follow up to the report, Fischbeck said he studied debris strikes during the first 50 shuttle launches and concluded that about 25 thermal tiles per flight sustained damage of at least one inch.

The analysis found that the most vulnerable parts of the shuttle were the undersides of the wings close to the fuselage and right under the crew compartment.

NASA experts said that data from Columbia show a sudden temperature rise — a marker for failed tiles — in the left wheel well, an area Fischbeck's report said was a critical risk.

Key to Columbia's end may be in final data

BY JUAN A. LOZANO

The Associated Press

SPACE CENTER, Houston — Data from the last 32 seconds before space shuttle Columbia broke into pieces in the Texas sky was so faint and ragged that computers at Johnson Space Center did not display it.

But that information, if it can be pieced together, could answer key questions about the mission's last moments.

"In 32 seconds, you would have probably gotten thousands of data points," said Donna Shirley, an aerospace mechanical engineering professor at the University of Oklahoma.

NASA engineers still are examining the data, which was stored in computers at a space communication center in White Sands, N.M.

If usable, it could give additional sensor readings on such measures as temperature and power levels, giving engineers a better time line of the disaster, said Shirley, who was manager of the Mars exploration program at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in the mid-1990s.

NASA has said earlier sensor readings showed the temperature on Columbia's left side — the same side hit by a piece of debris during liftoff — shot up sharply just before the shuttle disintegrated.

But Shirley cautioned against putting too much emphasis on the data.

"I don't think you should think anything about the 32 seconds until you get a report from the engineers," she said. "It may or may not shed light on what happened."

Todd Curtis, a former airline safety analyst with Boeing Co., said the data could be crucial.

"West of Fort Worth, they lost communications but had signals transmitting data. That says to me the voice communication system was off-line but parts of the data communication system were broadcasting. This implies the antennas for broadcasting this data were still intact," said Curtis, who helped investigate the 1996 crash of TWA Flight 800 off Long Island in New York.

"You could conclude certain systems, such as power sources, were still running," he said.

The temperature spikes were accompanied by an increased drag, or wind resistance, that forced Columbia's automated flight control system to make rapid adjustments to maintain stability.

N. Korea: Nuclear facilities reactivated

BY SANG-HUN CHOE

The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea said Wednesday that it has reactivated nuclear facilities frozen for nearly a decade and will use them "at the present stage" only to produce electricity, adding additional tension to the crisis over Pyongyang's nuclear program.

The North's main nuclear complex at Yonbyon was purportedly the center of a suspected nuclear weapons program in the 1990s. In December — amid the growing standoff with the United States — the North expelled U.N. experts monitoring the site to ensure it is not being used to produce weapons.

In Washington, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said he was unaware of reports the facilities has been revived. U.S. officials and nuclear experts say the amount of electricity that North Korea can produce at its nuclear facilities is negligible.

Meanwhile on Wednesday, South Korea — which has been pressing forward with attempts to reconcile with the North despite the nuclear crisis — opened a road across its heavily militarized border, the first such connection between North and South in more than five decades.

A spokesman for North Korea's Foreign Ministry said his country had restarted its nuclear facilities and was "putting [their] operation ... for the production of electricity on a normal footing."

The North Korean government "has already solemnly declared that its nuclear activity would be limited to the peaceful purposes including the production of electricity at the present stage," said the unidentified spokesman in remarks carried by the official KCNA news agency.

The Yonbyon nuclear complex has been dormant since a 1994 deal with the United States. The North, which often accuses Washington of plotting to invade it, said in De-

cember that it would reactivate a 5-megawatt Soviet-designed reactor at the site.

The facilities at Yonbyon include a building that stores 8,000 spent fuel rods and a reprocessing laboratory, where the North Koreans can extract weapons-grade plutonium from the spent fuel rods.

Last week, U.S. officials said spy satellites have detected covered trucks apparently taking on cargo at the storage facility where spent nuclear fuel rods are stored. If the rods are processed, enough plutonium can be extracted to make several nuclear weapons, U.S. officials have said.

In parliament, South Korea's No. 2 leader said that while Seoul would not tolerate the North's alleged atomic weapons program, it wanted to move ahead with reconciliation efforts.

"We can never tolerate North Korea's nuclear weapons development, which is a threat to our national security and world peace, but tension should not be allowed to keep rising on the Korean peninsula," Prime Minister Kim Suk-soo said in a speech to the National Assembly.

The North Korean spokesman criticized U.S. efforts to bring the nuclear dispute to the U.N. Security Council, saying the standoff is between the North and the United States only.

He said that unless the Security Council confronts the United States' "wrong Korean policy," North Korea will consider the world body biased and "accordingly, not recognize it."

The nuclear dispute erupted in October, when U.S. officials said the North had admitted having a nuclear program in violation of a 1994 pact.

As punishment, the United States and its allies suspended oil shipments to North Korea in December. The North then took steps to restart a nuclear reactor, expelled U.N. monitors and withdrew from a global nuclear arms control treaty.

Senator: Army comptroller should address credit woes

BY SANDRA JONTZ

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The chairman of the Senate Finance Committee is questioning why the Army's comptroller has been nominated for a \$25,000 bonus despite reports of fraud, waste and abuse involving government credit cards.

Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, on Tuesday sent a letter to Army Undersecretary Les Brownlee that admonished service leaders for nominating Ernest Gregory for the Presidential Rank Award — and its accompanying cash bonus.

"As the number two official in the Army Financial Management organization, Mr. Gregory is responsible for credit card programs ... and the General Accounting Office (GAO) completed a very thorough review of Army credit card programs in June 2002, uncovering widespread fraud and abuse and giving the Army a grade of 'F' for management," wrote Grassley.

"That is not a 'success story.' It is gross mismanagement," he wrote.

Army officials, caught off-guard by the fact that Grassley released the letter to the media on the same day he gave it to

the undersecretary, would not comment on its contents.

For several years, the GAO, Congress' investigative arm, has probed the use and misuse of government-issued travel and purchase cards.

Grassley, who often is critical of the Pentagon's financial management leadership, said in a statement that he has received two anonymous letters regarding alleged mismanagement by Gregory on the Army's credit card programs.

In his letter to Brownlee, Grassley references a phone conversation about the allegations that an aide to the senator and undersecretary shared last week.

"You have indicated that [an inspector general] review has been completed and that none of the allegations were substantiated. Please provide me a copy of your report," Grassley wrote.

Army officials said they did not know the results of the report Tuesday, but would work to provide details this week.

Grassley also asked for a list of Gregory's annual cash bonus awards for the past seven years to see if he received rewards for his work with the Army's credit card programs.

E-mail Sandra Jontz at:
jontzs@stripes.osd.mil

Camp Kinser Marine found dead in river

NAHA, Okinawa — A 22-year-old Marine assigned to Camp Kinser was found drowned early Saturday in the Gabu River, in the Makishi district in Naha.

Okinawa police said a rescue team found the body of Lance Cpl. Daniel A. Mills, 22, while responding to a call from a passer-by who had seen a body in the water at 5:44 a.m. Mills' body was submerged in about 6½ feet of water.

According to the police report, Mills was not breathing when his body was brought to the surface. He was taken to the U.S. Naval Hospital at Camp Lester, where he was pronounced dead, a Marine Corps spokesman said.

Okinawa police said an autopsy showed Mills, of Headquarters and Supply Company, 3rd Materiel Readiness Battalion, 3rd Force Service Support Group, died by drowning. He was fully clothed and his body showed no sign of injury, according to the police report.

The police spokesman said Mills may have been drinking with friends earlier in the evening. The narrow river runs through a popular entertainment district between Highway 58 and Kokusai Street. However, no one reported seeing him fall into the stream and police have not identified any bars the Marine may have visited.

Okinawa police are investigating whether Mills was intoxicated and how he might have fallen into the water.

From staff reports

DODDS teacher arrested

BY WAYNE SPECHT

Stars and Stripes

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — Japanese police arrested a Department of Defense Dependents Schools teacher Monday in connection with the theft of religious deity statues from a nearby shrine.

Andrew Christian Gray, 33, a special education teacher at Sollars Elementary School on Misawa Air Base, was placed on administrative leave Monday, confirmed Peter Grenier, staff chief for DODDS' Japan district superintendent's office.

"He is suspected of larceny and has been placed on leave," said Grenier, at Yokota Air Base. "The Japanese have jurisdiction."

Police in Noheji, 30 miles north of Misawa, said Gray is accused of stealing two 12-inch ceramic statues of fox deities

from Shoichi Inari Daimyo shrine on Sunday. Their combined worth has been estimated at 10,000 yen, or \$87.

Noheji police spokesman Katsuo Yasuda said Gray admitted to investigators that he took the objects and was arrested. He was taken to Noheji police station for questioning and has been confined there since his arrest.

Noheji police said 14 objects have been reported stolen from area shrines since May. Gray is being questioned about those thefts, they said.

Lion masks from Oura shrine in Kamikita, 10 miles northwest of Misawa, and at Nakamura shrine in Tohoku were among items reported stolen.

Sollars Principal Tom La Rue said Gray was in his second year of teaching at the school.

Hana Kusumoto contributed to this report.

E-mail Wayne Specht at: spechtw@pstrips.osd.mil

Ex-guardsman charged with spying

The Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — FBI agents arrested a former Washington Army National Guard officer and his ex-wife on espionage charges alleging they attempted to sell national security secrets.

Rafael Davila, 51, and Deborah Davila-Cummings, 46, were arrested Tuesday and ordered held without bail.

The charges of retaining and attempting to pass national security documents without authorization were contained in an indictment filed in federal court.

"This case involves the sale of 'top secret' and 'secret' documents involved with the defense of the United States," Assistant U.S. Attorney Earl Hicks said in court Tuesday.

The nature of the documents wasn't detailed in the indictment, and Hicks declined to comment outside court. U.S. Attorney Jim McDevitt also wouldn't discuss specifics of the case.

"These allegations are very, very serious," U.S. Attorney Jim McDevitt said.

The Spokesman-Review reported Wednesday that Davila-Cummings is accused of attempting to pass the top-secret documents to lawyer Kirk Lyons of Black Mountain, N.C. Lyons, who is named in the indictment but not charged, has represented former Texas Ku Klux Klan leader Louis Beam and James Wickstrom, head of the Posse Comitatus.

There was no immediate comment from Lyons, whose telephone number is unlisted.

The indictment accuses Davila-Cummings of attempting to pass top-secret U.S. documents sometime in August 1999. Her former husband is accused of "unauthorized retention" of national security documents that she is accused of attempting to deliver.

Davila was arrested at his parents' home in Ontario, Ore., authorities said. His former wife, a special education teacher, was arrested at her home in College Place, near Walla Walla.

Both face up to life in prison if convicted.

Close to debt ceiling?

WASHINGTON — The government is expected to hit the \$6.4 trillion ceiling on the national debt around Feb. 20, the Treasury Department said Wednesday, renewing its call for Congress to boost the government's borrowing authority.

Treasury asked Congress late last year to increase the government's ability to borrow, setting the stage for a political fight in Congress. Treasury, however, hasn't

said exactly how much of an increase in the current statutory debt ceiling it wants.

Treasury's announcement comes as the government's financial situation is deteriorating, with considerably more red ink being projected for the next few years than the \$158 billion deficit seen in the 2002 fiscal year, which ended Sept. 30.

Currently, national debt subject to the \$6.4 trillion debt limit stands at \$6.3 trillion.

From The Associated Press

Gender affects drug abuse?

WASHINGTON — Girls and young women are more easily addicted to drugs and alcohol, have different reasons than boys for abusing substances and may need single-sex treatment programs to beat back their addictions, according to a study released Wednesday.

"They get hooked faster, they get hooked using lesser amounts of alcohol and drugs and cocaine, and they suffer the consequences faster and more severely," said Joseph A. Califano Jr., chairman of the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, which conducted the survey of more than 1,200 girls and young women over three years.

"With some exceptions, the substance abuse prevention programs have really been designed with a unisex, one-size-fits-both-sexes mentality," Califano said. "We now know that girls are different than boys — let's recognize it and let's help them."

While boys often experiment with cigarettes, alcohol and drugs in a search for thrills or heightened social status, girls are motivated by a desire to reduce stress or alleviate depression, the study found.

Girls are also more likely to abuse substances if they reached puberty early, had eating disorders or were ever physically or sexually abused, researchers said.

Data: Meat safety lacking

WASHINGTON — More than half of 35 large meat processing factories reviewed recently by the government had shortcomings in their plans for protecting meat from harmful bacteria.

A preliminary assessment showed that 21 of the plants had problems with their plans to prevent E. coli contamination, Garry McKee, the Agriculture Department's food safety administrator, said Tuesday.

Penguin promos may be back

DALLAS — Southwest Airlines wants to bring back its popular SeaWorld penguin tours, when two of the flightless birds are put on jets to promote the amusement park as a summer destination. The promotion was shut down after Sept. 11, 2001, because of security concerns.

In order to resurrect the promotion, the Dallas-based carrier must iron out security details such as whether the penguins will be subject to the same security searches as other passengers: stepping through metal detectors and even being wanded by federal screeners.

From wire reports

Europe's new nation meets indifference

The Associated Press

BELGRADE, Serbia and Montenegro — Europe's newest nation was greeted with little enthusiasm, a lot of skepticism and plenty of nostalgia Wednesday, a day after Yugoslavia was abolished in favor of a loose union of its two remaining republics.

The country now is called Serbia and Montenegro.

A European Union-brokered accord approved by parliament on Tuesday leaves the two republics only loosely united. Under the accord, they could break up for good as early as 2006.

Skepticism over the country's reform is typical for many Serbs and Montenegrins who lived through a decade of bloodshed during the disintegration of the old, six-republic Yugoslav federation created after World War II.

"It's a stillborn [country]. We will separate in three years for sure," Milivoje Drobnyak, a 40-year-old teacher from Belgrade, said Wednesday.

"Within 30 days, the republics are to create a joint administration, including a 126-seat parliament and a president who will also head a government to be called the Council of Ministers.

The new constitution allows the member republics to hold referendums on independence in three years.

Observers predicted that a top Montenegrin official — Svetozar Marovic, a 48-year-old law expert and a moderate in the pro-independence camp in the small republic — would become the new country's first president.

Outgoing Yugoslav President Vojislav Kostunica, who led the drive to oust former autocratic ruler Slobodan Milosevic from office, will lose his job and his once-influential position on Serbia's political scene.

The reform was widely seen as an attempt to accommodate two conflicting views within both republics, ranging from demands for complete separation to a more tightly unified country. It failed to satisfy either side completely.

World Court wants 3 U.S. executions stayed

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — The United States must temporarily stay the execution of three Mexican citizens on death row in Texas and Oklahoma, the World Court ruled Wednesday.

In a unanimous decision, the 15-judge panel said that the delay was needed while the U.N. court investigates in full whether the men — and 48 other Mexicans on death row in U.S. prisons — were given their right to legal help from the Mexican government.

The World Court is the U.N.'s court for resolving disputes between nations. It has no power to enforce its decisions, and the United States has disregarded them in the past.

Illegal materials found near Tokyo

TOKYO — Dozens of containers filled with radioactive material dating back as far as the 1950s have been found in storage at a Japanese military college near Tokyo, in violation of government regulations, officials said Tuesday.

The National Defense Academy discovered 48 bins — some sealed — containing radioactive uranium, thorium, iodine, cesium and cobalt isotopes in two storage rooms on Dec. 9 and 10, but did not report the finding to the government until last week, Education Ministry spokesman Masaharu Ishida said.

Officials were investigating how the materials ended up at the academy.

Philippine president apologizes to fan

MANILA, Philippines — President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo apologized Tuesday to a Philippine fan who tried to kiss her during a visit to Kuwait but was blocked from doing so by her bodyguards.

A photograph of the man, dubbed the "kissing bandit" by newspapers, showed one of Arroyo's security guards shoving the man in the face as he approached the president.

"Maybe you saw a picture of a male Filipino worker who tried to steal a kiss from me, but was stopped by my aide. If he is your relative, please tell him sorry," Arroyo, 55, told relatives of overseas workers who welcomed her back in Manila after her two-day visit to Kuwait.

From The Associated Press

No London love for Courtney

Singer-actress **Courtney Love** was detained Tuesday at Heathrow airport in London after an airline claimed she verbally abused the crew of a trans-Atlantic flight.

Love was "verbally abusive toward our cabin crew and disruptive" on a Virgin Atlantic flight from Los Angeles to London, airline spokesman **Paul Moore** said. No one was injured on the Boeing 747, which carried 201 passengers and 20 crewmembers.

London's Metropolitan Police said a 38-year-old woman had been arrested for disruptive behavior and endangering an aircraft. She was being questioned by officers at Heathrow after reports of a passenger "being generally disruptive, using abusive language and refusing to sit down and put her belt on," a spokesman said. Love was later released.

Love is the widow of **Nirvana** frontman **Kurt Cobain** and lead singer of the rock group **Hole**.

Love had been due to attend a fundraising event at London's Old Vic The-

Faces 'n' places

ater on Wednesday along with **Elton John** and **Kevin Spacey**.

Heir sues over 'Citizen Kane'

The daughter of **Orson Welles** is suing two Hollywood studios, saying they should either pay her royalties on her father's masterpiece "Citizen Kane" or hand over the rights to the movie.

Beatrice Welles says in the lawsuit filed in federal court that a 1944 agreement discovered by an archivist appears to terminate a 1939 profit-sharing deal the filmmaker signed with RKO Pictures.

Welles' attorney, **Steven Ames Brown**, said the judge must decide whether the 1944 agreement transfers ownership rights.

The suit says Welles is also owed money on another of her father's films, "The Magnificent Ambersons."

Brown said the statute of limitations allows his client only to seek royalties from the past four years, from DVD and rental revenues alone.

Beatrice Welles, 47, a cosmetics company executive who lives in Nevada, is **Orson Welles'** child with his third wife. He also has a daughter and a son from two other marriages.

Working through a tragedy

Ben Affleck, who played an oil driller who goes into space to help save the world in "Armageddon," was glad he had to work Saturday so he could take his mind off the explosion of the space shuttle Columbia.

The 30-year-old actor was busy doing interviews for his new movie, the comic-book adaptation "Daredevil," in which he plays a blind hero whose other senses are superhuman. The movie opens statewide Feb. 14.

"It meant that I wasn't glued to the television watching the endless coverage," Affleck said Sunday. "Because I'll get caught up, just sitting there staring at the TV all day. It gets me so, I don't know. I don't think it's good for you after a while."

From The Associated Press

Judge rules James can play for now

BY TOM WITHERS

The Associated Press

AKRON, Ohio — LeBron James was cleared to play Wednesday by a judge who temporarily blocked a state ruling that stripped the high school basketball star of his eligibility.

James, expected to be the No. 1 pick in the NBA draft, can rejoin his team but must sit out one more game this season, Summit County Judge James Williams ruled.

St. Vincent-St. Mary has four games left before the playoffs.

The school can decide which game the senior will miss but must tell him by noon Thursday.

James already sat out a game after the Ohio High School Athletic Association declared him ineligible for the rest of the season because he accepted

two free sports jerseys worth a total of \$845.

The judge scheduled another hearing for Feb. 19, when he will decide whether to grant a permanent injunction or go to trial.

"Neither side is going to be happy," Williams said. "There are a number of issues the court wants to hear."

Williams said that James would suffer "immediate and irreparable injury" without a temporary restraining order. If Williams grants a permanent order, James would regain his eligibility and the school would regain a victory it had to forfeit as part of the athletic association ruling.

The team's next game is Saturday in Trenton, N.J., and three of its remaining regular-season games are before the next hearing.

Lawyers for the athletic association and James presented their arguments to the judge during a one-hour hearing.

James did not attend. OHSAA commissioner Clair Muscaro was at the hearing but did not immediately comment on the ruling.

James' attorney, Fred Nance, argued in court documents filed Tuesday that the 6-foot-8 star player did nothing wrong when he accepted two retro jerseys from the owner of a Cleveland clothing store. James has since returned the jerseys.

"All LeBron did was receive a gift from a friend as congratulations for his academic achievements," Nance said. "Had LeBron wished to capitalize on his fame, the recompense could be in the millions of dollars."

The state athletic association found that the store gave James the Gale Sayers and Wes Unseld jerseys in exchange for posing for pictures to be displayed on its walls.

Muscaro ruled that James broke an

amateur bylaw "by capitalizing on athletic fame by receiving money or gifts of monetary value."

The decision came four days after the athletic association cleared James of any wrongdoing for accepting a \$50,000 sport utility vehicle as an 18th birthday gift from his mother.

James attended practice on Tuesday in the school's gym, wearing a gray T-shirt and blue shorts. He warmed up with his Fighting Irish teammates and was stretching in the middle of the floor when coach Dru Joyce closed the practice.

The school defended James and said the punishment was too severe.

"LeBron made a mistake and accepts responsibility," James Burdon, chairman of the school's board of trustees, said. "He's apologized for the pain he's caused others. However, he has not committed a crime, nor has he consciously hurt anyone."

Mankamyer resigns U.S. Olympic Committee presidency

BY JOHN MARSHALL

The Associated Press

DENVER — Marty Mankamyer was accustomed to the power struggles within the U.S. Olympic Committee. The infighting became too much to take when the finger was pointed at her.

Mankamyer resigned as USOC president Tuesday night after colleagues blamed her for further fracturing the world's most powerful national Olympic committee.

The USOC's highest-ranking volunteer e-mailed her resignation to members of the organization's executive committee. Mankamyer said she doesn't have the energy to continue the job she took just 10 months ago.

"Because there appeared to be no possibility for peace unless I stepped aside, and with the thought that my action could make a positive difference for an organization to which I have devoted almost 20 years, I have decided to resign," Mankamyer said in her statement. "I wish the USOC the very best for the future."

The 69-year-old Mankamyer had been pressured to resign after she was accused of working behind the scenes to oust chief executive Lloyd Ward.

Mankamyer resigned the same day The Denver Post reported that when she was a USOC vice president, she demanded a partial commission from a real estate agent who sold a \$475,000 property to Ward when he became CEO in 2001.

Hours before she resigned, Mankamyer told the newspaper she was rightfully owed a "referral fee" from Ward's house purchase because she showed apartments to Ward's wife in Colorado Springs.

She said she was paid about \$9,500.

Brigitte Ruskin told the Post that Mankamyer sent her a series of letters in November 2001 asking her to pay a referral fee for the property purchase. She also said Mankamyer told Ward to pressure her to pay the fee.

Such fees are common when one real estate agent refers business to another.

Ruskin would not release Mankamyer's letters but said she will give them to Congressional investigators if asked.

Former USOC ethics officer Pat Rodgers said he learned Mankamyer was showing properties to Ward while he was still a candidate for the CEO job and warned both of them that they should not do business with each other.

Under USOC bylaws, vice president-secretariat William Martin will serve as interim president. The USOC's board of directors will vote on a permanent re-

placement after a nomination by the executive committee.

The board of directors is to meet in April, but no election date has been set.

"We are greatly indebted to Marty for her many years of service to the USOC," vice president Herman Frazier said. "We look forward to continuing to focus on the mission of the USOC, to help U.S. Olympic athletes achieve sustained competitive excellence and to preserve and advance the Olympic ideal."

"The IOC regrets very much the leadership crisis of the USOC and is clearly sad to learn of Mrs. Mankamyer's resignation," IOC President Jacques Rogge said Wednesday in a statement to The Associated Press.

He added that the IOC hopes for a "rapid resolution" and does not want the USOC's problems to "deflect from the important role of the USOC in the Olympic movement."

The USOC's executive committee was expected to take a vote of no confidence this weekend in Chicago after seven members, including all five vice presidents, asked for her resignation.

The group claimed Mankamyer distorted facts in an ethics case against Ward in an attempt to gain power.

Ward was accused of trying to help a company with ties to his brother land a power deal with the 2003 Pan American Games. But the USOC's ethics committee gave him a light reprimand Jan. 13.

OLYMPICS

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration is asking Congress for \$2.7 million to provide security for the U.S. Olympic team that will participate in the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens.

BASKETBALL

MILWAUKEE — Local and national investors are interested in buying a majority stake in the Milwaukee Bucks but the league wants to keep the team in the city, NBA Commissioner David Stern said.

Stern said in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel he is confident this can be done. He did not identify any of the interested parties.

NEWARK, N.J. — Jayson Williams' trial for Feb. 18 was called off when an appeals court agreed to consider dismissing manslaughter charges against the former NBA star.

An appellate panel is to hear arguments March 12 in Trenton from his lawyers and the prosecutor's office.

FOOTBALL

DETROIT — Steve Mariucci was hired as coach of the Detroit Lions, taking over one of the NFL's worst teams less than three weeks after his dismissal by the 49ers.

Mariucci, born and raised in Iron Mountain, Mich., signed a contract with the Lions and will be formally introduced at a news conference Wednesday.

Sports in brief

DENVER — Broncos kicker Jason Elam signed a five-year, \$9 million deal that could allow him to finish his career in Denver.

His \$2.6 million signing bonus is one of the biggest ever for a kicker.

INDIANAPOLIS — Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning and kicker Mike Vanderjagt have resolved their public feud.

The players told the Indianapolis Star that they apologized to each other during a series of phone conversations.

BOXING

LAS VEGAS — Shane Mosley is having second thoughts about taking a \$4.25 million purse to fight Oscar De La Hoya. And promoter Bob Arum is having second thoughts about Mosley fighting De La Hoya at all.

With a planned Sept. 13 rematch between the two fighters in jeopardy, Arum said that De La Hoya will fight a rematch with Fernando Vargas if Mosley doesn't sign a contract his agent agreed to.

HOCKEY

DETROIT — Two women who claim disabling injuries from pucks that flew into the stands at Joe Louis Arena filed

suit against the Detroit Red Wings, the arena's owners and the NHL.

Attorney James Elliott said Elizabeth Taylor, 52, from the Flint area, and Sandra Quick, 32, of suburban Detroit, would not have been hurt had the team installed nets to stop pucks from entering the stands during games.

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Renewing his effort to purchase the bankrupt Buffalo Sabres, billionaire B. Thomas Golisano had more discussions with NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman.

AUTO RACING

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Driver Kyle Busch signed a contract with Hendrick Motorsports — 24 hours after deciding not to join his older brother at Roush Racing.

Busch will race in at least seven NASCAR Busch series events for Hendrick this season — after he turns 18 on May 2 — and will compete full time in 2004.

TENNIS

NEW YORK — Pete Sampras withdrew from the Siebel Open, further delaying his return to tennis after a long absence.

Sampras, who has not competed since winning the U.S. Open in September, said he is not prepared to play a tournament. He and his wife, actress

Bridgette Wilson, became first-time parents in November.

PARIS — Myriam Casanova, a Swiss teenager who practices with Martina Hingis, beat Barbara Schett 4-6, 7-5, 6-3 in the Gaz de France and will next face Serena Williams.

Also, Elena Dementieva defeated Denisa Chladkova, Rita Grande upset sixth-seeded Silvia Farina Elia, and fifth-seeded Patty Schnyder was beaten by Tina Pisnik.

HYDERABAD, India — Top-seeded Clarisa Fernandez was upset in the first round of the Indian Open on Tuesday, beaten 6-2, 6-4 by Akiko Morigami of Japan.

Second-seed Tamarine Tanasugarn and fourth-seeded Mary Pierce advanced but were stretched to three sets by Yulia Beygelzimer and qualifier Jie Zheng.

LOS ANGELES — The season-ending WTA Championships from Nov. 5-10 will change its format from a 16-player single-elimination tournament to an eight-player round-robin with the singles winner earning \$1 million, a \$235,000 increase.

BASEBALL

HOUSTON — Astros pitcher Carlos Hernandez will miss the 2003 season after surgery Tuesday on his left shoulder.

Hernandez, a left-hander, had the operation to repair tear in his rotator cuff and labrum.

From The Associated Press

One and done

In first game atop poll, Florida gets swarmed by Kentucky's defense

BY CHRIS DUNCAN

The Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Florida hardly looked like the No. 1 team in the country against Kentucky on Tuesday night.

The sixth-ranked Wildcats' defense made sure of it.

Keith Bogans scored 15 points — all in the first half — as Kentucky beat the Gators 70-55, snapping Florida's 14-game winning streak one day after it moved to the top of the poll for the first time in school history.

The active, swarming Wildcats (17-3, 7-0 Southeastern Conference) held Florida to 34 percent shooting (17-for-50), including 36 percent from three-point range (5-for-14), and forced 19 turnovers.

"Our guys hung our heads when the shots weren't falling," Florida coach Billy Donovan said. "Our mindset was too much on offense and scoring. They took us out of our game."

Gerald Fitch had 14 points for Kentucky, which won its 11th straight game, its second-longest winning streak in coach Tubby Smith's six seasons. The Wildcats haven't won their first seven league games since 1997-98,

their last national championship season.

"We think we're the No. 1 team. That's what we wanted to show everybody," Fitch said. "I think we did a good job of showing them."

Anthony Roberson scored 18 points for the Gators (18-3, 7-1).

Donovan said his team wasn't affected by being ranked on top.

"This was perfect timing for us to be No. 1 because us playing Kentucky overshadowed the ranking," Donovan said. "It's a big conference matchup with both teams undefeated and working for first place in the league. We didn't have to answer a lot of questions about being No. 1."

The Gators hit four of their first seven shots before Kentucky's defense seized control. For the rest of the half, Florida hardly got an open look, and the Wildcats seemed to track down every loose ball.

"Not to take anything away from Florida, but we had their number tonight," said Kentucky guard Cliff Hawkins, who had four points and eight assists.

Kentucky finished the half on a 23-4 run as Florida missed 21 of its last 23 shots and committed eight turnovers. The Wildcats scored 14 straight points over one five-minute stretch.

"We thought they had more firepower," said Kentucky forward Chuck Hayes, who had nine points and eight rebounds.

Bogans, a senior who averaged 17 points in six previous games against Florida, shot 6-for-11 in the first half. The Wildcats went 19-for-37 from the field (51 percent) in the opening half, including 7-for-12 from three-point range (58 percent).

The Gators' offensive struggles were summed up in the final 1:22 of the first half.

After a timeout, Roberson overthrew an inbound pass to Brett Nelson on the Kentucky side of the floor. Nelson saved the ball right to Hawkins, who calmly made an uncontested layup.

Seconds later, Bogans stole a pass and threw down a two-handed, breakaway dunk for a 41-20 lead. Nelson missed a three-pointer, the Wildcats rebounded and Bogans lobbed an alley-oop pass to Hayes for a dunk.

"We took them out of what they wanted to do and executed our offense to a 'T,'" Bogans said.

Roberson made two free throws, but Daniels hit a fadeaway jumper with 2 seconds left to give Kentucky a 45-22 halftime lead.

The wide deficit startled the Wildcats as they went into the locker room.

"We were kind of surprised. We really were expecting a war," Hayes said. "You really don't know how bad you've dominated a team until you look at the stat sheet and see you've held them to six baskets. That's unreal."

The Gators had no solutions for Kentucky's defense in the second half.

Florida's deficit bulged to 29 as steals led to consecutive dunks by Daniels and Antwain Barbour.

"We had them down and we just wanted to keep them there," Fitch said.

The Gators finally found a rhythm and hit six of seven shots during a too-late 16-4 run that cut the lead to 64-47 with 3:59 left.

But after Marquis Estill scored inside less than two minutes later, the boisterous Rupp Arena-record crowd of 24,459 began its chant of "Overrated!" and Smith pulled his starters.

Bogans hopped and laughed and Fitch twirled a towel as the final seconds ticked off and the fans stood and cheered.

"Once we heard they were No. 1, we got excited like kids," Hayes said. "In my two years, this has to be the most fun we've had. When you play basketball like that, it's a lot of fun."

Colorado 93, No. 3 Texas 80

BOULDER, Colo. — Michel Morandais scored 24 points, including a tiebreaking three-pointer with 1:58 left that triggered a 13-0 run for Colorado.

The Buffaloes (13-7, 3-4 Big 12), who beat a Top 10 team for the second time in 13 days, also got 23 points from Blair Wilson and 18 points and 14 rebounds from Stephane Pelle.

Brandon Mouton and James Thomas each scored 19 points for Texas (14-4, 5-2).

The Buffaloes, who beat then-No. 6 Kansas 60-59 on Jan. 22, broke open a second half that had 19 lead changes with their flurry over the final two minutes.

No. 4 Pittsburgh 68, Providence 61

PITTSBURGH — Pittsburgh made free throws down the stretch to hold off Providence's upset bid.

College basketball

Ontario Lett scored 15 of his 18 points in the first half as the Panthers opened a 13-point lead, then withstood the comeback to stay unbeaten at home this season.

Jaron Brown added 15 points, including going 6-for-7 from the free throw line in the second half, and Brandin Knight had 11 points and nine rebounds as Pitt (16-2, 6-1 Big East) won for the seventh time in eight games.

Ryan Gomes had 26 points for Providence (10-9, 3-5), which has lost four of five.

No. 13 Creighton 84, Northern Iowa 75

OMAHA, Neb. — Michael Lindeman scored 20 points, including two three-pointers late in the game,

as Creighton (20-2, 10-1 Missouri Valley Conference) became the first Division I team to reach 20 victories this season.

Freshman Ben Jacobson scored a career-high 26 points for the Panthers (6-13, 3-8).

No. 20 Xavier 80, George Washington 68

WASHINGTON — Lionel Chalmers, playing just his second game since returning from a broken foot, scored 17 points to lead Xavier.

Chalmers' three-pointer with 4:42 left gave the Musketeers (16-4, 7-1 Atlantic 10) a six-point lead and they went on to their seventh straight victory.

David West had 13 points and 13 rebounds for Xavier — his eighth straight double-double.

Chris Monroe had 17 points for the Colonials (8-11, 2-6), who lost for the seventh time in nine games.

From The Associated Press

Lakers 97, Pacers 94

INDIANAPOLIS — Kobe Bryant scored 35 points, Shaquille O'Neal fought off foul trouble for 19 points and 12 rebounds, and Devean George hit a key three-pointer in the Los Angeles Lakers' victory over Indiana.

It was the first game between the teams since Reggie Miller and Bryant fought after a Los Angeles victory in March at the Staples Center. Bryant threw a punch at Miller and the two landed on the scorers' table near the Pacers' bench.

The Lakers led by nine points with 2 minutes remaining before Indiana reeled off six straight points to trail 94-91 with less than a minute remaining.

George — a 30 percent three-point shooter — drilled one to make it 97-91.

Wizards 93, Cavaliers 84

WASHINGTON — Michael Jordan scored 27 points in 43 minutes Tuesday as Washington beat Cleveland 93-84,

despite the absence of leading scorer Jerry Stackhouse.

Facing constant double-teams, Jordan made 13 of 26 shots and had eight assists as the Wizards held off a stubborn challenge by the NBA's worst team. Neither team led by double digits until the final two minutes, even though starting Cleveland point guard Smush Parker sprained his right ankle on a layup in the first quarter and did not return.

Jordan scored 45 points in 44 minutes in a victory over New Orleans on Saturday with Stackhouse on the bench with a groin injury. Stackhouse is expected to return after the All-Star break.

Tyronn Lue added 15 points and six assists for the Wizards, who take a two-game winning streak into the break.

Nicks 105, Clippers 92

NEW YORK — Latrell Sprewell broke the NBA record for most three-pointers

NBA

in a game without a miss, going 9-for-9 from behind the arc as New York beat the Los Angeles Clippers.

Sprewell broke the record of 8-for-8 held by Jeff Hornacek, Sam Perkins and Steve Smith, making consecutive three-pointers midway through the fourth quarter to break the record after a 19-point lead had shrunk to nine.

Sprewell finished with a season-high 38 points, shooting 14-for-19 overall. The crowd called for him to take another three-pointer in the closing minutes, but he did not oblige the one time he had a brief open look with about 35 seconds remaining.

Allan Houston added 20 points and Howard Easley 11 for the Knicks.

Trail Blazers 96, Magic 89

ORLANDO, Fla. — Scottie Pippen had his first double-double of the year with 25 points and 17 rebounds as Portland defeated Orlando for the eighth consecutive time.

Rasheed Wallace added 15 points, 10

rebounds, six assists and three blocked shots for Portland. Bonzi Wells and Ruben Patterson had 12 points each for the Blazers.

A 15-foot jump shot by Wells at 5:08 in the second period broke a 31-31 tie and the Trail Blazers stayed in the lead the rest of the way. Portland has won 13 of its past 17 overall.

Timberwolves 103, Rockets 89

MINNEAPOLIS — Kevin Garnett scored 23 points, and Rashaun Nesterovic added 19 and played tough defense against Chinese rookie Yao Ming as Minnesota beat Houston.

Garnett grabbed 11 boards and added nine assists for the Timberwolves, who lost by 20 points at Houston on Friday.

While Garnett narrowly missed his fourth triple-double of the season, Nesterovic held his own against the 7-foot-6 Yao and provided timely baskets for Minnesota. Nesterovic went 9-for-14 from the floor, including several hook shots over Yao which brought loud cheers from the crowd.

Continued on Page 10

NHL

Capitals 5, Lightning 1

NEW YORK — Jaromir Jagr's flashy skills already made him one of the most breathtaking players in NHL history. Now he has a magic number to match.

Jagr scored three times to give him 500 career goals and send Washington over Tampa Bay 5-1 Tuesday night.

"I knew I was pretty close," Jagr said. "I really didn't think about it."

He didn't take long to reach the milestone, either. Jagr is the 16th player to hit the 500 mark in less than 1,000 games, doing it in 926.

The 30-year-old right wing became the 33rd NHL player with 500 goals when he scored his third of the game at 7:19 of the second period, a shot from the top of the right circle during a power play. Jagr's 30th goal of the season gave him 11 career hat tricks.

"The whole team is playing well and that's important," Jagr said. "That's my job, to score goals."

Peter Bondra and Mike Grier had the other Washington goals, and Olaf Kolzig made 27 saves. The Southeast Division-leading Capitals have a five-point lead over Tampa Bay.

"That's huge," Jagr said. "We've got a long way to go, but it always helps."

Jagr opened the scoring in the first period and made it 2-0 from the low slot in the second.

Power-play goals by Bondra and Grier gave Washington a 5-0 lead later in the second. Jagr assisted on Bondra's goal and finished with four points.

"It wasn't just one game out of 82," Washington coach Bruce Cassidy said. "We knew what was at stake. Our best players outplayed their best players. That was the difference in the game."

Fredrik Modin scored for the host Lightning.

Avalanche 3, Bruins 2 (OT)

BOSTON — Greg de Vries scored his third goal of the season with 42.3 seconds left in overtime and Patrick Roy stopped 28 shots for Colorado.

It was the second consecutive game de Vries has scored the winner in overtime. He also beat the New York Rangers just before the All-Star break.

Scott Parker and Peter Forsberg also scored for the Avalanche, who matched a season high by pushing their unbeaten streak to six games.

Flyers 2, Islanders 1

UNIONDALE, N.Y. — Mark Recchi scored a rare power-play goal for Philadelphia with 9:56 left.

Roman Cechmanek gave up an early goal to Roman Hamrlik, but made 28 saves to earn the victory. Jeremy Roenick scored 4:35 into the game for Philadelphia, which snapped its season-long four-game losing streak.

Canucks 3, Penguins 2

PITTSBURGH — Henrik Sedin and

Matt Cooke scored on successive first-period shots and Vancouver held on to ruin Mario Lemieux's return to the lineup.

Lemieux, the NHL scoring leader, missed all but 3:53 of the Penguins' previous 11 games with a groin injury. He assisted on Alexei Kovalev's second-period goal while playing his first full game since Jan. 4.

Kovalev, the subject of constant trade speculation, scored twice for Pittsburgh, which has won just one of its past seven games (1-5-1).

Devils 4, Sabres 1

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Joe Nieuwendyk scored twice and Patrik Elias had a goal and an assist as New Jersey beat struggling Buffalo for its eighth straight victory at home.

Defenseman Tommy Albain added his first goal and Corey Schwab made 19 saves for the Devils, who have won 16 of 22 games (16-3-2-1). New Jersey is tied with Ottawa for first place in the Eastern Conference.

Predators 5, Red Wings 5

DETROIT — Denis Arkhipov scored with 3:12 left in regulation and Nashville rallied from a three-goal deficit to tie Detroit.

Kimmo Timonen scored twice for the Predators.

Brendan Shanahan and Luc Robitaille were among the goal scorers for the Red Wings, winless in their past four games (0-2-2).

Robitaille broke a 20-game drought with his first goal since Dec. 17. He added an assist for his first multipoint game since Oct. 29. Detroit's Brett Hull remained at 699 career goals for the fifth straight game.

Thrashers 4, Canadiens 3

MONTREAL — Marc Savard scored his second goal of the game with 1:36 left in the third period.

Brad Tapper and Jeff Cowan also scored for the Thrashers, who improved to 6-2-1-0 under coach Bob Hartley.

Andreas Dackell, Jan Bulis and Niklas Sundstrom scored for Montreal, which is 3-2-2-1 under new coach Claude Julien.

Mighty Ducks 3, Flames 2

CALGARY, Alberta — Sandis Ozolinsh scored the go-ahead goal at 10:19 of the third period in his Anaheim debut. Ozolinsh, traded by Florida in a four-player deal Thursday, also had an assist.

Rob Niedermayer's second goal of the game tied it for the Flames just two minutes earlier.

Stanislav Chistov and Mike Leclerc also scored for Anaheim, which moved into sole possession of eighth place in the Western Conference. The Mighty Ducks have won three straight and are 8-2-0-1 in their past 11 games.

From The Associated Press

Scores/standings

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New Jersey	33	15	.688	—
Boston	26	22	.542	7
Philadelphia	25	23	.521	8
Washington	24	25	.490	9½
Orlando	24	26	.480	10
New York	21	26	.447	11½
Miami	17	31	.354	16

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	34	15	.694	—
Detroit	31	15	.674	1½
Milwaukee	24	23	.511	9
New Orleans	25	24	.510	9
Atlanta	19	30	.388	15
Chicago	17	32	.347	17
Toronto	14	34	.292	19½
Cleveland	9	40	.184	25

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	38	10	.792	—
San Antonio	31	16	.660	6½
Minnesota	29	20	.592	9½
Utah	28	20	.583	10
Houston	26	21	.553	11½
Memphis	13	34	.277	24½
Denver	12	36	.250	26

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	34	16	.680	—
Portland	31	16	.660	1½
Phoenix	29	21	.580	5
L.A. Lakers	23	23	.500	9
Seattle	21	25	.457	11
Golden State	21	26	.447	11½
L.A. Clippers	17	31	.354	16

Tuesday's games

Washington 93, Cleveland 84
L.A. Lakers 97, Indiana 94
Portland 96, Orlando 89
New York 105, L.A. Clippers 92
Toronto 98, Milwaukee 95
Minnesota 103, Houston 89
Sacramento 110, Dallas 109
Denver 102, Chicago 100, OT

Men's basketball AP Top 25 Fared

Tuesday

1. Florida (18-3) lost to No. 6 Kentucky 70-55. Next: vs. No. 22 Alabama, Saturday.

2. Arizona (16-2) did not play. Next: at Washington, Thursday.

3. Texas (14-4) lost to Colorado 93-80. Next: at Texas A&M, Saturday.

4. Pittsburgh (16-2) beat Providence 68-61. Next: at No. 10 Notre Dame, Sunday.

5. Louisville (16-1) did not play. Next: vs. Cincinnati, Wednesday.

6. Kentucky (17-3) beat No. 1 Florida 70-55. Next: at Mississippi, Saturday.

7. Oklahoma (15-3) did not play. Next: vs. Baylor, Saturday.

8. Maryland (14-4) did not play. Next: vs. Virginia, Thursday.

9. Duke (14-3) did not play. Next: vs. North Carolina, Wednesday.

10. Notre Dame (18-3) did not play. Next: at Seton Hall, Wednesday.

11. Oklahoma State (17-2) did not play. Next: vs. Kansas State, Wednesday.

12. Kansas (16-5) did not play. Next: at Kansas State, Saturday.

13. Creighton (20-2) beat Northern Iowa 84-75. Next: vs. Bradley, Saturday.

14. Wake Forest (15-2) did not play. Next: vs. North Carolina State, Thursday.

15. Marquette (15-3) did not play. Next: vs. Saint Louis, Wednesday.

16. Illinois (15-4) did not play. Next: vs. Ohio State, Sunday.

17. Georgia (13-5) did not play. Next: at Tennessee, Saturday.

18. Connecticut (13-4) did not play. Next: at Virginia Tech, Wednesday.

19. Syracuse (15-3) did not play. Next: at West Virginia, Saturday.

20. Xavier (16-4) beat George Washington 80-68. Next: vs. Dayton, Saturday.

21. Missouri (13-5) did not play. Next: vs. Texas Tech, Sunday.

22. Alabama (13-5) did not play. Next: at Arkansas, Wednesday.

23. Mississippi State (13-5) did not play. Next: vs. Vanderbilt, Wednesday.

24. Purdue (14-4) did not play. Next: vs. Wisconsin, Wednesday.

25. Stanford (16-5) did not play. Next: at Oregon, Thursday.

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	32	12	3	4	71	134	97
Philadelphia	28	14	8	2	66	124	112
N.Y. Islanders	24	21	5	2	55	144	150
Pittsburgh	21	23	4	5	51	140	154
N.Y. Rangers	21	26	6	2	50	139	169

Northeast Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Ottawa	32	14	6	1	71	172	121
Boston	26	19	5	2	59	153	136
Toronto	27	20	4	1	59	144	130
Montreal	21	21	7	5	54	144	158
Buffalo	15	25	7	4	41	110	134

Southeast Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	25	19	7	3	60	157	146
Tampa Bay	22	20	7	4	55	146	149
Florida	15	19	10	8	48	118	154
Carolina	17	25	6	5	45	144	158
Atlanta	18	27	3	4	43	143	187

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis	28	15	6	4	66	170	136
Detroit	27	15	9	2	65	154	132
Chicago	22	18	9	3	56	126	126
Columbus	20	25	5	2	47	146	160
Nashville	17	23	9	4	47	121	142

Northwest Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	30	16	7	0	67	162	137
Edmonton	24	16	6	6	60	146	140
Minnesota	25	18	8	1	59	126	116
Colorado	21	14	11	5	58	147	129
Calgary	17	26	7	3	44	114	150

Pacific Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	30	11	11	1	72	165	107
Anaheim	28	18	7	4	57	129	130
Phoenix	19	21	7	4	49	128	138
San Jose	19	21	6	5	49	137	152
Los Angeles	20	24	4	4	48	128	144

Two points for a win, one point for a tie and overtime loss.

Tuesday's games

Colorado 3, Boston 2, OT
Philadelphia 2, N.Y. Islanders 1
Washington 5, Tampa Bay 1
Nashville 5, Detroit 5, tie
Atlanta 4, Montreal 3
Vancouver 3, Pittsburgh 2
New Jersey 4, Buffalo 1
Anaheim 3, Calgary 2

From The Associated Press

Continued from Page 9

Steve Francis led Houston with 31 points on 11-for-21 shooting.

Yao, who had his 14th double-double Friday against the Wolves, scored 12 points on a 4-for-7 performance.

Raptors 98, Bucks 95

MILWAUKEE — All-Star Vince Carter scored 25 points, two short of his season high, and blocked the potential tying shot by Ray Allen just ahead of the final buzzer as Toronto beat Milwaukee.

Antonio Davis added 16 points, Morris Peterson 14, Voshon Lenard and Jerome Williams 13 each and Alvin Williams 11 for Toronto, which has won four of five since Carter's return from a knee injury.

Michael Redd scored 24 points, Allen had 21, Sam Cassell 20 and Anthony Mason 13 for the Bucks, who lost for the third time in 13 games.

NBA continued

A three-point play by Redd made it 97-95 with 28 seconds left and Jerome Williams made one of two free throws after grabbing an offensive rebound with 2.3 seconds left for the final point.

Kings 110, Mavericks 109

DALLAS — Keon Clark's high-flying dunk off a missed three-pointer with 16.5 seconds remaining capped a thrilling showdown between the Western Conference division leaders.

Michael Finley's three-pointer with 57 seconds remaining put Dallas, which had trailed by 16, ahead 107-106. After Mike Bibby and Dirk Nowitzki traded tough jumpers, the Mavericks still led by one point.

Turkey's Hedo Turkoglu missed a long three-pointer, but lanky teammate Clark — who earlier had an

amazing one-handed, reverse alley-oop dunk — caught the ball and slammed it through in one motion.

The Mavericks, who had won four straight and seven of eight, had one possession left, but Nowitzki missing a 10-footer in the lane.

Nuggets 102, Bulls 100 (OT)

DENVER — Juwan Howard scored 30 points and Chris Whitney hit five free throws in the final 20.6 seconds of overtime as Denver beat Chicago to win consecutive games for the first time since Jan. 8-10.

Donyell Marshall led Chicago, which owns the NBA's worst road record at 2-25, with 21 points. Jalen Rose added 20 points as the Bulls completed a five-game road trip winless. They have dropped six successive games on the road since a 115-102 victory at Atlanta on Jan. 20.

From The Associated Press